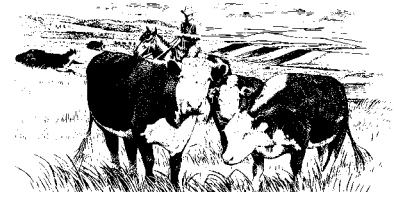


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U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 2 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.36 million head on May 1, 2004. The inventory was 2 percent below May 1 of last year and 6 percent below May 1, 2002. Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.60 million, 14 percent below 2003, but 10 percent above 2002. Net placements were 1.51 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 316 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 302 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 567 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 418 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.89 million, 5 percent below both 2003 and 2002. Other disappearance totaled 97.0 thousand during April, 54 percent above 2003 and 17 percent above 2002.

CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 500 thousand head on May 1, 2004, 1 percent above last month and 6 percent above May 2003. During April, placements of 75.0 thousand head were 23 percent above the previous year. Marketings of 67.0 thousand head were 6 percent above April of 2003. Other disappearance totaled 3.00 thousand head.

NUMBER OF CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES

State	Number On Feed April 1 1/			Placed During April		Marketed During April	
	2003	2004	2004/2003	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Thousand Head						
Arizona	278	293	105	32	31	40	27
California	475	495	104	61	75	63	67
Colorado	970	970	100	200	155	165	175
Idaho	280	255	91	45	45	49	47
Iowa	375	415	111	57	57	60	53
Kansas	2,320	2,360	102	420	355	450	440
Nebraska	2,190	2,210	101	320	320	420	420
New Mexico	105	105	100	21	14	24	11
Oklahoma	340	330	97	68	51	75	68
South Dakota	210	205	98	31	26	29	28
Texas	2,670	2,640	99	540	415	520	480
Washington	180	170	94	25	24	34	33
Other States	320	300	94	50	35	56	45
UNITED STATES	10,713	10,748	100	1,870	1,603	1,985	1,894
State	Other Disappearance During April 2/		Number On Feed May 1 1/		2004/2003		
	2003	2004	2003	2004			
	Thousand Head					Percent	
Arizona	1	2	269	295	110		
California	3	3	470	500	106		
Colorado	5	10	1,000	940	94		
Idaho	1	3	275	250	91		
Iowa	2	4	370	415	112		
Kansas	20	35	2,270	2,240	99		
Nebraska	10	10	2,080	2,100	101		
New Mexico	1	3	101	105	104		
Oklahoma	3	3	330	310	94		
South Dakota	2	3	210	200	95		
Texas	10	15	2,680	2,560	96		
Washington	1	1	170	160	94		
Other States	4	5	310	285	92		
UNITED STATES	63	97	10,535	10,360	98		

^{1/} Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fed for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates, and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

^{2/} Includes death losses, movement from feedlot to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		April 2003	March 2004	April 15, 2004	April 2003	March 2004	April 15, 2004
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	98.00	104.00	120.00	92.90	81.80	89.60
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Ton	99.00	105.00	126.00	96.50	85.90	92.70
Hogs 2/ 3/	Cwt.	---	---	---	34.80	47.20	45.10
Cows 2/	Cwt.	39.50	44.00	46.00	40.20	46.60	49.00
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	78.50	85.50	86.50	78.80	87.90	89.70
Calves 2/	Cwt.	95.00	110.00	117.00	98.90	115.00	116.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	32.00	43.00	---	31.10	36.70	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	90.00	96.00	---	93.70	104.00	---
Milk Cows 4/	Head	1,250.00	---	1,550.00	1,300.00	---	1,580.00
All Milk Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	9.97	14.01	16.50	11.00	15.40	18.00

1/ The estimated prices in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers and are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ Price includes barrows, gilts, and sows.

4/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July and October.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, PACIFIC REGION AND UNITED STATES 1/

Commodity	Unit	PACIFIC REGION 2/		UNITED STATES	
		April 2003	April 15, 2004	April 2003	April 15, 2004
		Dollars			
Alfalfa Meal	Cwt.	18.70	18.50	15.00	14.90
Bran	Cwt.	18.10	18.40	13.70	14.80
Corn Meal	Cwt.	13.70	15.10	9.90	9.84
Cottonseed Meal, 41%	Cwt.	19.80	20.60	16.60	18.40
Dairy Feed, 16%	Ton	209.00	207.00	200.00	218.00
Soybean Meal, 44%	Cwt.	22.30	24.60	14.50	19.60

1/ Prices shown represent composite average prices paid by farmers for all grades, classes and method of sale.

2/ Includes California, Oregon and Washington.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

Stocks of hay on California farms totaled 300 thousand tons as of May 1, 2004. This is 15 percent of the December 1 stocks and 50 percent above May 1, 2003.

United States May 1 hay stocks totaled 25.9 million tons of hay on farms. This was 23 percent of the December 1 stocks and 17 percent above May 1 of the previous year.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

State	December 1			May 1		
	2001	2002	2003	2002	2003	2004
	1,000 Tons					
California	1,930	1,840	2,048	228	200	300
Arizona	223	203	280	28	45	55
Nevada	776	882	857	111	167	121
Oregon	1,901	2,550	2,395	183	340	377
Utah	1,494	1,210	1,495	215	175	279
UNITED STATES	110,384	102,978	110,752	22,458	22,013	25,865

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during April 2004 totaled 115.6 million pounds (dressed weight), 6 percent below the previous month and 3 percent below April 2003. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In April 2004, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,296 pounds; calves 142 pounds; and hogs 246 pounds.

U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in April, down 3 percent from the 3.85 billion pounds produced in April 2003.

Beef production, at 1.96 billion pounds, was 9 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.70 million head, down 9 percent from April 2003. The average live weight, at 1,200 pounds, was down 9 pounds from the previous year.

Veal production totaled 13.9 million pounds, 13 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 70.7 thousand head, down 11 percent from April 2003. The average live weight was 329 pounds, 7 pounds below last year.

Pork production totaled 1.73 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year, and set a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 8.65 million head, 4 percent above April 2003. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year with 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.4 million pounds, was down 11 percent from April 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 256 thousand head, 14 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up 5 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2004 commercial red meat production was 14.8 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 8 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 5 percent, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

April 2003 and 2004 both contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and four Saturdays.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, APRIL 1/

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Thousand Head		Thousand Pounds		Pounds	
CATTLE						
California	114.6	104.1	146,784	134,966	1,280	1,296
U.S. Total	2,966.1	2,698.5	3,586,024	3,238,123	1,209	1,200
CALVES						
California	10.4	7.3	1,724	1,035	166	142
U.S. Total	79.1	70.7	26,617	23,295	336	329
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S. Total	297.3	256.0	39,015	34,711	131	136
HOGS						
California	198.4	212.3	47,850	52,129	241	246
U.S. Total	8,341.9	8,652.3	2,234,847	2,315,187	268	268
RED MEAT	April 2003	March 2004	April 2004	Apr. 04 Apr. 03	Apr. 04 Mar. 04	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	119.6	122.9	115.6	97	94	
U.S. Total 2/	3,845.8	3,944.3	3,713.3	97	94	

1/ Farm slaughter excluded.

2/ Revised March 2004 data.

**For information on part-time jobs collecting agricultural data in your local area,
please call 1-800-851-1127.**

CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION

California milk producers produced 3.07 billion pounds of milk in April 2004. This was 1 percent below March 2004, but 1 percent above April 2003.

Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,790 pounds, 20 pounds less than March 2004 and 10 pounds less than a year ago.

MILK PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Month	CALIFORNIA 1/						Total Milk Receipts 2/		UNITED STATES 1/ 3/					
	Milk Cows		Milk Per Cow		Milk Production				Milk Cows		Milk Per Cow		Milk Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds		1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds			
Jan.	1,672	1,701	1,790	1,755	2,993	2,985	2,989	2,982	7,810	7,716	1,615	1,619	12,616	12,491
Feb.	1,676	1,705	1,655	1,670	2,774	2,847	2,768	2,846	7,811	7,716	1,489	1,528	11,628	11,787
Mar.	1,681	1,710	1,850	1,810	3,110	3,095	3,108	3,092	7,810	7,717	1,666	1,658	13,014	12,798
Apr.	1,685	1,714	1,800	1,790	3,033	3,068	3,028		7,800	7,719	1,627	1,630	12,693	12,584
May	1,685		1,835		3,092		3,090		7,787		1,671		13,013	
June	1,684		1,765		2,972		2,971		7,785		1,596		12,428	
July	1,690		1,755		2,966		2,965		7,780		1,597		12,421	
Aug.	1,693		1,755		2,971		2,967		7,771		1,571		12,207	
Sept.	1,695		1,670		2,831		2,826		7,764		1,511		11,731	
Oct.	1,698		1,720		2,921		2,917		7,743		1,561		12,083	
Nov.	1,694		1,665		2,821		2,817		7,721		1,517		11,709	
Dec.	1,697		1,740		2,953		2,948		7,713		1,596		12,313	

1/ Revised 2004 data.

2/ Milk receipts are from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Dairy Marketing and Milk Pooling branches. Excludes on-farm usage.

3/ Twenty-state total.